

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In the year 1986, the Governor's Rural Affairs
3 Council was established by Governor James R. Thompson under
4 the pro-active leadership of then Lieutenant Governor George
5 Ryan; and

6 WHEREAS, In the year 1990, then Lieutenant Governor Ryan,
7 chair of the Council, recognized the importance of improving
8 the quality of life of rural residents and the importance of
9 providing a collective voice for rural Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, In the year 2000, Governor George Ryan's
11 Executive Order No. 1 directed Lieutenant Governor Corinne
12 Wood, chair of the Council, to develop and implement a
13 comprehensive strategy for improving the delivery of State
14 services to rural Illinois with the aim of expanding
15 opportunities for rural businesses and families and for
16 improving the quality of life of rural residents; and

17 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Wood hosted a series of
18 statewide Rural Leadership Forums to hear firsthand from
19 local leaders the challenges and opportunities facing rural
20 businesses and rural families; and

21 WHEREAS, The testimony provided at the Rural Leadership
22 Forums was compiled, in partnership with the Institute for
23 Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, to develop the
24 annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly
25 entitled "Rural Illinois: Charting a Course for a New
26 Millennium"; and

27 WHEREAS, The report provides a foundation for coordinated
28 actions and public-private partnerships to encourage rural
29 growth and prosperity; and

30 WHEREAS, The Governor's Rural Affairs Council has been
31 revitalized and serves as a statewide partner with State

1 agencies and private organizations in lending support to the
2 local leaders of rural communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Wood has encouraged the
4 General Assembly and the Governor to continue to strengthen
5 the rural economy, provide services to rural Illinois, and
6 improve the quality of life of rural residents; therefore, be
7 it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN,
10 that we urge Governor Ryan to work with the General Assembly
11 to implement the recommendations in the Governor's Rural
12 Affairs Council's report "Rural Illinois: Charting a Course
13 for a New Millennium"; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 delivered to the Governor.